

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /059 W
----- 120213

P R 181920Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3464

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: TENSIONS MOUNT: COPCON ISSUES WARNING

1. CRISIS ATMOSPHERE CONTINUES TO BUILD. COPCON ISSUED

COMMUNIQUE, WHICH BROADCAST OVER JULY 18 5:00 P.M. NEWS, MAKING
FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- GIVEN FACT THAT RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL FORCES, INCLUDING
SOCIALISTS, HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF MOUNTING
"MARCH ON LISBON," ANY ORGANIZED MOVEMENT TOWARD CITY WOULD
HAVE TO BE PROVOKED BY REACTIONARY FORCES ONLY INTERESTED IN
PROVOKING PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS.

-- "ORGANIZED REACTION" SEEKS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION
CREATED BY PARTISAN COMMUNIQUES BY MAJOR PARTIES, REFLECTING
THEIR MUTUAL ANIMOSITIES, TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK IN FORCE.

-- IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ELP OR OTHER FOREIGN COUNTERREVOLU-
TIONARY FORCES MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION CREATED
BY PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS IN INTERIOR TO SPREAD CONFUSION.

-- IN SPITE OF PARTISAN DIFFERENCES, COUNTRY MUST STAND
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UNITED TO FACE COMMON ENEMY -- REACTIONARY FORCES AT SERVICE

OF IMPERIALISM.

-- COPCON DECLARED THAT MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD DESIST FROM FORMULATING THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT CRISIS, ENCITING POPULAR MASSES AND WORKERS FOR AN IMPENDING CONFLICT WHICH COULD HAVE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES. COPCON IS DETERMINED TO USE ITS FORCES TO MINIMIZE CONFLICT, AVOIDING USE OF ARMS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

2. COPCON ALSO ANNOUNCED RELEASE OF REMAINING MRPP LEADERS "IN INTERESTS OF NATIONAL UNITY" IN FACE OF CURRENT CRISIS.

3. TREATMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION BY LEFTIST PRESS IN AFTER-NOON EDITIONS JULY 18 HAS ADDED TO TENSIONS. "DIARIO DE LISBOA" HEADLINED "WORKERS IN THE STREET AGAINST REACTION." "REPUBLICA" HEADLINED "MANEUVERS OF THE HOLY ALLIANCE" ABOVE PHOTOS OF PS LEADER SOARES AND PPD LEADER MAGALHAES MOTA. FRONT-PAGE REPORT SAID "MARATHON OF MEETINGS" INFILTRATED BY AGENTS OF PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY AND SPINOLISTS TO CONDUCT "NATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF POLITICAL AGITATION" WITH AIM OF "POLITICAL DESTABILIZATION." BANNER ON TOP OF "REPUBLICA" READ "VIGILANCE-THE STRONGEST FORCE OF THE PEOPLE. SIMILARLY, FRONT-PAGE "A CAPITAL" HEADLINE WAS "POPULAR VIGILANCE TO COMBAT REACTION."

4. COMMENT: COPCON STATEMENT IS PLAGUE UPON HOUSES OF ALL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS ALIKE. CENTRAL MESSAGE IS CALL FOR PARTIES TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM FURTHER PROVOCATIVE ACTS TOGETHER WITH WARNING THAT COPCON PREPARED TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT ORDER IS MAINTAINED. MUCH MORE THAN SUCH ELEVENTH-HOUR STATEMENT WILL BE NEEDED TO COOL OFF SITUATION.

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